

Chris Mitchell**Medina County Precinct 1**

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*received
6/27/06*

Tuesday May 30, 2006

Ms. Rhini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: STB Docket No. 34284
1925 K Street NW
Washington DC 20423-0001

FD 34284

RE: Medina County requirements for Vulcan prior to any permits issued by STB

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

This letter is in regard to the proposed Vulcan quarry and rail line in Medina County. As the Precinct Commissioner in whose area this is all taking place, I want STB to be aware of my concerns for safety and flooding. Along with this are my concerns that without written commitments from Vulcan prior to any permitting from your agency, Medina County will not succeed in properly protecting our citizens.

During the meeting at our County Courthouse in February all the Commissioners Court were made keenly aware of Vulcan's potential to do whatever they want once they receive any federal permits to operate the quarry and/or rail line. Vulcan has said publicly that they will do an all truck traffic operation if necessary and that they will upgrade any roads needed for their routes. While that is an excellent statement Medina County will need firm commitments in writing.

Mitigating circumstances and issues regarding roads, low water crossings, flooding etc., will mean nothing and Medina County will have no say at all unless we receive these commitments in writing before any permits are issues.

The following are issues that must be resolved in writing between Vulcan and Medina County.

- All roads surrounding the quarry in all directions leading to and from the site are to be considered when bringing road surfaces up to county standards. Safety is the primary issue. Vulcan has stated they will bear all costs to do this and since there is no established truck route yet all roads surrounding the quarry site in my precinct are to be considered for upgrading. The costs will include all necessary surveys for sight distances and safety issues, obtaining ROW for widening the roads, flooding issues regarding low water crossings, construction of proper low water crossings and if bridges are required to make these safe for all traffic, environmental hazards, traffic counts.
- After speaking with TxDot engineers out of Austin, Medina County Precinct 1 will seek more stringent requirements for the crossings at 2676 (an overpass) and 4516 (proper low water crossing such as a bridge with boxed culverts.)

- I have personally spoken with 2 retired UP engineers who have told me that since rock is the lowest priority for the railroads, Vulcan will be lucky to get out 1 train load per day which means the truck traffic will be increased.
- Medina County Precinct 1 will not support the use of eminent domain by the county to obtain any additional ROW for the roads.
- Medina County Precinct 1 will require that this agreement be signed and in place prior to any federal permitting and that the road construction be started within 6 months from the date of any permitting being granted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have any other questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CB Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Chris Mitchell
Medina County Precinct 1